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Mrs.E.A.Bryant
3210 W.Adams St.

Dear Mrs.Bryant:

Just a word as to the value of a California botanic as compared to one of general collection.

On Saturday there was presented to me a letter of introduction from the University of California,signed by Dr.W.L.Jepson,as follows(as near as I remember):"This will introduce one of the most noted botanists of Europe,a man of much foreign travel,Dr.Domin,Curator of the National Botanical Museum of Czechoslovakia and Professor of Botany at the Charles University,at Prague. Please show him what he wishes to see in plant life,"etc,etc,.

When I asked what he wished to see most he said:"All kinds of plants, exotics and native. But I travel much---Africa,Australia,all Europe,etc. and therefore see much of garden plants. So if our time is to be limited let me rather see the native vegetation for the native flora of California is the finest and most varied in the world. So I had him and his wife on the travel from 8:00 to 5:00,over gardens,parks and in canyon and on hill,pointing out and naming the various species,while his wife wrote down the names and he photographed many of the plants. He did not wish to leave the wilds and regretted that he had to get away back to the West Indies,where he said he should see many of the garden plants we grow here. The point I am making is that our exotics may be seen in many lands but few of our natives sxcept on their native heath.

This is merely to lay a foundation for the following: I told what you proposed doing,to build a California plant sanctuary. At once he was almost wildly enthusiastic. He named some of our very best plants

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and bemoaned the fact that he had to travel 800 miles,from San Diego to Siskiyou to see it all,much of it so difficult of approach that more than a year would be consumed in superficially skimming it over. He said: "If there was a garden where I could see it all,or a considerable part of it,I would spend even a few days more here if it should entail a very short West India visit for yours is the most wonderful flora.If that woman builds such a garden she will be the greatest benefactor the field of botany has ever known and when she passes away will leave a lasting monument by which the world of science will for all time do her honor".

He then asked me if you relized the magnitude of the task you were to undertake for he said the mere thought of it was staggering,though not appalling. He was extremely wrought up over the possibility and had much to say about it,some of which I may recount if opportunity presents. He left California with a much higher appreciation of our plant life, both native and foreign,than he had previously entertained.In fact,he said he had listed more plants than he had previously in any one day since he left home.

We are having many of these foreign botanists every year,is it not a shame we have no native collection to show them? I get them all for Dr. Jepson told him they always send them to me "Because you can name more of both garden and native plants than any man in the state,and he did not put it strong enough".When can we have the Bryant Botanic Garden to show visiting scientists?

Yours truly

Ernest Braunton

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